

**Community Relations Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes**  
January 14, 2004

The Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center and by teleconference on January 14, 2004.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the committee were present: Stanley Levine (chair), Blaine Akers, Lorenzo Arredondo, John Sharpnack, William Nelson, Andrea McCord, and Rosemary Higgins Burke.
2. **Staff present.** Jenny Bauer provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. **Request for Proposal re: Public Relations Firm.** Judge Levine explained that the Indiana Judges Association has decided to hire a public relations firm. The Association has asked the Community Relations Committee to send a Request for Proposals to public relations firms, evaluate the proposals, select a small number of firms to make presentations to the committee and choose a firm to represent the Association. He distributed a draft request for proposal to the committee for their review. Judges Arredondo, Burke and Sharpnack volunteered to work with Judge Levine on this project.
4. **Projects recommended by the Chief Justice.** Judge Levine reported that he met recently with Chief Justice Shepard to discuss future projects for the Community Relations Committee. Chief Justice Shepard suggested that the committee spearhead an effort statewide for judges to write op-ed pieces and submit to newspapers. The topics of these op-ed pieces would be on various judicial topics, with the purpose of spreading the word about the work of Indiana's judges. Judge Levine informed the committee that he had prepared an op-ed piece that just appeared in the *Indianapolis Star* and the *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*. Judge McCord, Judge Burke and Judge Akers volunteered to assist with this project. Chief Justice Shepard also suggested creating a brochure (or something of that nature) on the judicial system and the history/role of juries that jurors could read while waiting for jury duty. He suggested something similar in format to the "Indiana Court Times" that is published by State Court Administration. Judges Arredondo and Nelson volunteered to assist with this project.
5. **Law/Media Guide.** Judge Levine reported that the Hoosier State Press Association hired Janice Kreuscher to work on the Law/Media Guidebook. Ms. Kreuscher is currently working on the table of contents for the guidebook. Judge Levine will circulate the table of contents to the committee for comments once the draft is complete. Judge Levine stated that he hopes to introduce the guidebook to judges at the Spring Judicial Conference in April.

6. **Community Relations information for new judges.** Judge Levine reported that he would like community/media relations to be a topic for new judges at the Judicial Center's orientation sessions. He will work with Cathy Springer to put this on the agenda at the next orientation in 2005.
7. **Next meeting.** The Committee decided to meet during the Spring Judicial Conference (at the Omni North Hotel in Indianapolis) on either April 21 or April 22, depending on room availability. Jenny Bauer will notify the committee members and the media representatives when the date is confirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
Staff Attorney